

JOACHIM du BELLAY

1. How does the concept of decorum make its appearance in du Bellay's treatise? See, for example his attitudes toward translation (222-23).
2. du Bellay compares imitation to eating, encouraging the studious poet to devour the Ancients, and thereby to convert them into "blood and nourishment" (224). What is the purpose of this metaphor? What kind of imitation does he advocate here? What's the relationship between imitation and innovation?
3. du Bellay spends a lengthy amount of text defending French language and culture from charges of "barbarousness" (219). What is his strategy here and what does this discussion suggest about his attitude toward the power of language and its role in the forging of national identities? See also his references to Francis I and the "puissant kingdom" of France (222).
4. Compare du Bellay's metaphor of the grafted tree (221) to de Pizan's allegory of the City. What are the significance and effect of his appeal to "organic" metaphors and sweeping allegories in the discussion of language?